

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUCHAREST 1478

FOR DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY DOWNEY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEWT, EMAE, OVIP (AVRAM, IOAN), RO

SUBJ: AVRAM VISIT

REF: BUCH 1441

1. AT AIRPORT DEPARTURE MINISTER AVRAM AND DEP MIN BUTOI BROACHED WITH ME GOR INTEREST IN COLLABORATING WITH U.S. CAR MANUFACTURER IN ERECTION OF FACILITY TO MANUFACTURE SMALL (900-1000 CC) CARS IN ROMANIA. GOR HAS IN MIND PLANT TO PRODUCE 100,000-150,000 UNITS ANNUALLY. BULK OF PRODUCTION WOULD BE EXPORTED TO MARKETS IN MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA, AND EUROPE. AVRAM MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY HIS INTEREST IN DISCUSSING PROPOSED VENTURE WITH GM, WHICH HE UNDERSTANDS HAS ADVANCED RESEARCH ON VEHICLE OF THIS SIZE, BUT INTERESTED AS WELL IN TALKS WITH FORD (WHICH INCIDENTALLY HE SAID PLANNED TO BUILD A PLANT IN ROMANIA IN THE LATE THIRTIES.)

2. AVRAM INDICATED GOR FLEXIBLE AS TO FORM OF COOPERATION. IT COULD BE JOINT VENTURE, LOCAL ASSEMBLY OR LICENSING ARRANGEMENT. GOR WOULD, HOWEVER, ANTICIPATE PROVIDING SOME PORTION OF MATERIALS FOR VEHICLE, AVRAM ALLUDING IN THIS CONTEXT TO AVAILABILITY OF STEEL UNDER FORTHCOMING FIVE YEAR PLAN.

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3. I AM NOT SURE WHY THIS MAJOR PROPOSAL HAS COME UP SO

CLOSE TO AVRAM'S DEPARTURE, NOR WHETHER GOR HAS REALLY
THOUGHT THROUGH ALL ITS IMPLICATIONS. AVRAM TOLD ME, HOWEVER, THAT
CEAUSESCU IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN IT. AT ANY RARE AVRAM
IS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO EXPLORE IT.

4. I WOULD THEREFORE ASK WHETHER, IN COORDINATION WITH FODOR
IN NEW YORK, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE TO GET AVRAM
APPOINTMENTS AT SUITABLY HIGH LEVELS OF BOTH FORD AND GM IF THERE
IS ANY INTEREST IN HAVING EVEN EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS ON THIS IDEA.
HOPEFULLY AVRAM WOULD COME AWAY FROM THESE MEETINGS WITH A
BETTER APPRECIATION OF WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. SINCE I ALSO
HAVE OBLIGATION TO INFORM BUTOI OF WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED, I
WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR CABLING ME THE RESULTS OF
SOUNDINGS WITH GM AND FORD.
BARNES

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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